Dec 16
1937

248

52,
Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.
Telephone : Museum 2621.

Wednesday

Could you give me the great pleasure
of accepting what is Not a
Christmas present, but simply
Your due on the story which I owed
Entirely owing to you. In fact it's
Considerably less than your due. So do,
Good dolphin: & buy a few bibs
extras on the journey with it.

Also: Could you tell me any small thing
Angelica wants? As it's her birthday as
well as Christmas: but I can't think what she
want – bag, stocking, brooch! Lord knows what.
Barbara has just been, with 6 bottles of mint
Jelly. As were glad to pay for mint jelly.
Lend Lord Lovat duke as Rupert used to say. Flonie
has the bronchitis: what are you doing for dennis?

B.

(1937)
1937

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249a

Monks House,
Tuesday, 28th Dec.

Your letter written on the 22nd only reached me yesterday — which shows what a time it takes. I'm horrified at your journey. Why on earth didn't you take my advice & travel first? However I read with the usual incoherence of the warfarer — when we went 3rd it was very comfortable. As a matter of fact it was a perfect summer day on Christmas day, also boxing day. One could have sat out. But all over the rest of England, you'll be glad to hear, it was black with fog. But that's our only good luck. Poor mouth broke out at Blackcap just as they were talking down the board here; to up they went again till the 5th, we can't walk a step. But we've discovered some unparalelled beauties — East Chiltington in its way beats St Remi, today nothing at Cassis — only 3 miles the other side of Lewes. The Keynes's came for Christmas lunch, & told Angelica. It was Maynards' first outing. He said he had almost recovered from his setback, but could

only creep upstairs with great difficulty & lie on chairs.
However we talked incessantly till 3 or 20, when he
suddenly became very gated — almost as tear I thought — about
politics & the Labour party & Lydia wheeled him off.
He was much more cheerful though; & we rang up Jerlesby —
he said it had done him good, & we're to go there.
All the gossip was that Lydia thinks the St. Stalesman
hopeless; much prefers Nights Day; M. has bought the site
for a theatre in Lewes, but want do more; investments are
very bad; Sport at Tellon very good; he & Kelley his
pigs; has rejected Upton Flenden play; thinks Auden very
dirty but a genius; & that's about all. Clive is
probably coming down tomorrow, & Ot Janis is with him,
wants to come over. However, I think we shall go up
on Monday to see L's doctor. His kidney is still
rather a nuisance, & he can't garden, so as the 2 weeks are
up, we shall see what Rau advises. We're also
going to see John, about the press, so we shall stay a
night, & then I expect settle in here again. No,
I've heard nothing of Helen, but she was clearly so
rattled & flattered & worried, as well she might be,
that I thought silence indicated. Colefax, who
at last forced herself on me, was all honey about the

great party, though of course it had been very crowded, with the had had the joy of seeing Duncan alone, thought Angelica perfectly lovely, & knew that Jane had bought a picture: after that he gave us a recitation, not from the King's mouth, account of the Abdication: knew that he & Wally had never been to bed: says Wally is a simple good devoted soul, who implored the King to keep her as his mistress or let her go. "If you do" he said "I shall drag you to the ends of the earth in an aeroplane."

Whenever S. goes abroad they ring her up, the days with them. Unfortunately they require to take her advice- which is to go to South America - & are going to live in Paris, where no one will visit them, because of propriety. I gathered that Lytt is going to act as liaison officer between them & the implacable Queen Mary, & I'm not at all sure that I'm not going to help David to have recourse to the classics - which, as Lytt says, might do him a world of good. Cy for Wally, Leonard wd. feel perfectly at home with her. And so am, ah in odd, end, for 1 hour & 30 minutes.

That's about all the London gossip that has come my way. Approach of retreat I'm afraid. Yes it

would be nice to be sitting in a vineyard with the
frogs croaking & the yellow butterflies among the olives.
The fog is creeping up this evening, & my only letter is a
frantic appeal from Ethel Smyth to tell her what
Shaw & her vast new book, ask in praise of Maurice
Baring – which God help me I can't, won't do. I see
from the Times that K. Clark is in hot water about his
Georgiones again; & That a subscription is on foot to buy
one of Wyndham Lewis's pictures for the nation. Old
Tom actually signs this Baldendash. He dined with us,
but let on nothing; was [illegible] NYPL last as genial & slutch as
could be, & has mounted into the oddest world of
antique respectability – for example, the Maxses, Leo's
nephew, who's in the Guards; Algernon Cecil, wedower of
Gwen God-Osborne: I suppose in order to cultivate society
dialogue for his play. Mrs Grant has sent me an
Egyptian Square – the one I saw – insanely lovely. And if I
could find a rule I would measure for my plan.
Duncan's picture arrived just as we left. I
maintain it's a masterpiece: all the sea in one shell.
That's all the art Critician gets getting me. I'm afraid this'
the shell is too big for the dinny worm. Now food
Dolphen, he carped; & warm; & eat & love
poor worm calm dinge

HAMILL 2/10/65

Now do be careful, & come back to your devoted
Invalid - L. sends her love. He works all day, & B.
is quite unconcerned.

52 Tavistock Square.

Sunday
9th Jan. 1938

257

I can't help thinking you owe
me a letter - however, I had Angelica's,
to my great content.
I've not written partly because I
always hoped the Doctor would
say that L. was cured. However
this wretched little bother - some
pus or blood in his water - has gone on,
so he; had to stay in bed. He
got a temperature at Rodmell, & we
came back. That went at once;
but the other thing has gone on, &
the Dr. thinks it may be something
wrong either with the kidneys or
prostate. The X Ray only
showed that one kidney was at

working. Probably & And it may clear off & be nothing. But if it doesn't stop next week, we shall probably see a specialist. They can examine the bladder apparently & make sure if his the prostate or not. Even so, as of course there's no reason to think an operation would be necessary. He's certainly got better since he was in bed, & kept entirely on rice pudding. But that explains why I've no news & write such a d-d dull letter. We've been back 10 days & the Dr. Rau - who's a very intelligent man & quite sceptical of all medicine - says he must do. Every possible test, however inconclusive, so that most of my time is spent waiting for

NYPL

him to come or to telephone, & he generally
forgets. Except for Judith, Harry
Stephen & Helen I've seen no one—
Judith buying duncan chintzes for the
new home, & controlling Karen's
delicious excitement. This now theirs.
Then old Harry— I'm so sorry, but
Exactly the same. Dorothea is lodged
in England, & being X rayed, was found
to have had consumption, but
recovered. James has taken up singing,
but remains at Bognor, a Catholic.
Barbara thinks it a good sign that he
sings without a collar— he is
trying to build himself better, the sign.
And Ethel Sands, & Lowe, sing up &
asks me to lunch; but I don't go.
In fact London is still hibernating.
Everyone away; & cold & rain most days,
though nothing like the famous
climate of the Riviera. My word
you do sound cold! 4 inches of

Snow. I've just rung up Clive, in the hope of catching Quentin on his way back from the North, but he hasn't yet arrived, & may go straight to Charleston. Clive sounds cheerful, & is dining here on Tuesday; when I hope to get more mundane gossip. Hugh Walpole is coming to tea, & I'm to egg him on to buy a lottery ticket. Helen is only just emerging from the Exhaustion of the Party, which financially was a failure, but that is they didn't get money for the Studies: but she's off again on other schemes, chiefly in order to provide an inaudible w.c. for the more refined public. And of course Waley & Dr Locke were dining, & she had to go & cook dinner. Duncan's card was a Great Pleasure: the 2 hearts are shining on the mantelpiece. I'm afraid I've droned on about medical details, but its a comfort to write to you, & I've told you all, so there's no need to worry. In fact, Dr: said this morning it might still clear up completely. But we cant know before Wednesday. I'll write at once.

HAMMER 2/10/68

I'm glad Charles memoir is done. Do bring all the things for me to read. Are ye sending them to Chatto?

Monday 10th. 1938

252

Yrs

I've just had a letter from you — the first for ever so long. You talk as if you'd never got a long letter I wrote from Radnor just before we came back. It's just likely — the ports have been so erratic. However, this is only to add, as I wrote last night about Leonard, that Rau has just rung up today the waiter is perfectly normal for the first time. This is a great relief, as we'd made up our minds that he'd have to go into a nursing home to be examined. Rau said if it stayed normal for 2 days we could consider the whole thing cleared up. Though I'll bet it may

Come back – or at least. Anyhow this is better than we had hoped for; there seem no reason why it shouldn't stay normal now. Otherwise Ran says there's nothing wrong.

I didn't see Quentin – Clive said he'd gone straight back – nor have I heard of your adventure – in fact I've had no news at all whatever, except from Angelica – perhaps letters missed – Ran says I'm to tell you he liked you packed very much – it was whisked off before I saw it. Sorry to, another story has been taken in America, so good dolphin here's your Communion, – do for good, take take first-class this time. The cold round letters. How this hits the old underground, sulphur yellow & steamy. I've seen no one. I'll write again, but if you don't hear, don't worry: I mean, Ran Kafka am waiting so long that I might hear in time to tell you before you start. Lord how heavenly to see you again! L sends her love – B.

NYPL

HAMILL 2/10/68

1960

253

52 Lancaster Sq.

Friday 14th Jan.

This is only to say that the last sample was normal, so I is now up & about. It's an amazing relief, as you can imagine. We were almost certain he would be sent to a nursing home. Of course Rae can't say anything definite. He thinks the trouble was probably caused by the prostate, & it may come back. But he advises us to do nothing about it for a month, & then see him again. Meanwhile to forget all about it. So we're off tomorrow to Monks Home. I'm afraid

we shall get miss you, unless you go to
Charleston. I think we shall stay
a week. Perhaps you'll ring up
one evening - I long to see you. I've
been so distracted I've practically
no news. Molly is better: probably
won't have an operation - Hugh is
ready to subscribe £5 for a picture
I think. John Lehmann is
probably becoming our partner.
Alix dined & was very subdued.
I've not seen Quentin. But
I must post this: I got your
letter this morning.
Love and more love I long to
see you.
Kiss Angelica atoms.
V.

NYPL

HAMILL 2/10/68